

Paul's Concern for the Galatians - Galatians 4:8-20

Topics:

Children, Choices, God, Gospel, Idolatry, Influence, Jesus Christ, Joy, Legalism, Rejection, Sickness, Slavery, Truth

Open It

1. How have you become estranged from a former friend?

2. In what ways have you switched alliances among your circle of friends during the past few years?

3. Are you more or less joyful than you used to be? Why?

Explore It

4. Before becoming Christians, to what were the Galatians enslaved? (4:8)

5. After they became believers, how did the Galatians turn back to their paganism? (4:9-10)

6. Why did these Christians go back to observing the Mosaic calendar? (4:9-10)

7. How did Paul express his concern for the Galatians? (4:11)

8. Why did Paul tell the Christians to follow his example? (4:12)

9. What had been Paul's experience with the Galatian believers? (4:12-14)

10. How had the Galatians esteemed Paul? (4:15)

11. Why did the believers turn away from Paul? (4:16)

12. What motivated the Judaizers to turn the Galatians against Paul? (4:17)

13. What did Paul say in defense of zealotry? (4:18)

14. How did Paul express his attitude toward the Galatians? (4:19-20)

15. How did Paul want his "dear children" to change? (4:19)

16. Why did Paul want to be with the believers? (4:20)

Get It

17. What are some of the "weak and miserable principles" by which non-Christians live their lives?

18. After experiencing salvation, why do some Christians return to their former bad habits?

19. What bad habits are hard for you to break?

20. How have we allowed cultural practices to affect the way we celebrate Christmas and Easter?

21. How does your pastor show concern for your spiritual growth?

22. When have you turned away from friends because you did not like what they had to say?

23. How can we show concern for Christians who have turned away from the truth?

Apply It

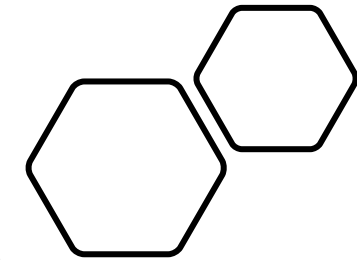
24. What is one step you can take, starting today, to increase the joy in your life?

25. What friendship can you mend this week for the sake of Christ?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.



Galatians 4:8-20
**“Paul’s Concern for
the Galatians”**



BIBLE STUDY

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Introduction

What do Christians mean when they claim to “know God”? As strange as the concept may sound to modern ears, the Scriptures speak confidently of our ability to know God intimately. Paul turned to the Galatians’ seeming denial of their relationship with God. Though they had met God, their present course of action (living by the law) amounted to a sad betrayal of God’s grace.



EXPLORE IT QUESTIONS



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“Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist” (4:8 NLT).



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⁹ So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world?

¹⁰ You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. (**4:9-10 NLT**)



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“I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing” (4:11 NLT).



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“Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws. You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you” (4:12 NLT).



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9. What had been Paul's experience with the Galatian believers? ([4:12-14](#))



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¹² Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws. You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you.

¹³ Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News.

¹⁴ But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God or even Christ Jesus himself. ([4:12-14 NLT](#))



10. How had the Galatians esteemed Paul? ([4:15](#))

**Explore It
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“Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible” (4:15 NLT).



Explore It Questions

11. Why did the believers turn away from Paul? ([4:16](#))



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“Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?”
(4:16 NLT)



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“Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them.” (4:17 NLT)



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“If someone is eager to do good things for you, that’s all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I’m with you” ([4:18 NLT](#)).



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14. How did Paul express his attitude toward the Galatians? ([4:19-20](#))



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¹⁹ Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.

²⁰ I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you.

(4:19-20 NLT)



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16. Why did Paul want to be with the believers? ([4:20](#))



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